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VERBENA PLANT NAMED 'SUNMARISAKURA'

BOTANICAL/COMMERCIAL CLASSIFICATION

Verbena hybrida/Verbena Plant

5 VARIETAL DENOMINATION

cv. 'Summarisakura'

BACKGROUND OF THE VARIETY

10 1) Parent;
'Sunmarisa' (United States Patent No. Plant 11130)

2) Progress

15 The present a new distinct cultivar of *Verbena* was
created by heavy ion beam irradiation on the *Verbena*
hybrid variety called 'Sunmarisa'. 'Sunmarisa'(U.S. Plant
Pat. No. Plant 11130) is our *Verbena* hybrid variety and
grown at Omi R&D Center, Suntory Flowers Ltd.

20 In July 1998, 5Gy of ionic nitrogen (135MeV) was
irradiated onto 128 pieces of in-vitro axillary bud of
'Sunmarisa' using the Ring Cyclotron at The Institute of
Physical and Chemical Research. Two weeks later,
25 elongated buds were grown from cuttings. March 1999, 5
varieties were selected in view of self-sterility. These
plants were propagated by cutting and then grown in pot
and planter box on trial from May 1999 at the Omi R&D
Center of Suntory Flowers Ltd. Additionally the plants
30 were grown in pot and planter box on trial in 2000.
Finally one plant was selected from these 5 varieties in
view of the long flower duration. By November 2000, the
botanical characteristics of the finally selected plant
were examined. As a result, it was concluded that this
35 new *Verbena* plant is distinguishable from any other
variety, whose existence is known to us, and is uniform
and stable in its characteristics. This new variety of

Verbena plant was named 'Sunmarisakura'.

5 The new variety of the present invention can be distinguished from its parent 'Sunmarisa' in its self-sterility. Also the new variety can be distinguished from the similar variety 'Sunmaripi' in the flower color and self-sterility.

10 In the following description, the color-coding is in accordance with The Horticultural Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England (R.H.S. Colour Chart).

15 'Sunmarisa' was used as the parent when obtaining this new variety, 'Sunmarisakura'. The botanical characteristics of 'Sunmarisa' are as follows when grown at the Omi R&D Center of Suntory Flowers Ltd..

Plant:

20 Growth habit.--Decumbent.
Plant width.--Approximately 65-71 cm.
Plant height.--Approximately 8-9 cm.

Stem:

25 Diameter.--Approximately 1.7-2.2 mm.
Anthocyanin pigmentation.--Absent.
Pubescence.--Normal.
Branching.--A moderate level of branching is present.
Subterranean stem.--Absent but when the stems contact the surface of soil, the nodes take root in the ground and the plant growth thereby spreads.

30 Length of internodes--Approximately 1.7-2.7 cm.

Leaf:

35 Phyllotaxis.--Opposite.
Shape.--Oblong-lanceolate.
Depth of incision.--Shallow.
Margin.--Serrate.
Length.--Approximately 2.9-3.6 cm.
Width.--Approximately 1.6-2.4 cm.

Leaf apex.--Mucronate.

Leaf base.--Petiolate.

Color.--Dark olive green (R.H.S. 141A) on the upper surface.

5 Pubescence.--Sparse.

Petiole.--Present.

Thickness of petiole.--Approximately 1.0-1.2 mm.

Length of petiole.--Approximately 1.2-2.5 mm.

Flower:

10 Shape of cluster.--Obovate.

Length of cluster.--Approximately 2.3-4.4 cm.

Diameter of cluster.--Approximately 4.0-5.8 cm.

Facing direction.--Upward.

Outward curvature of petal.--Flat.

15 Diameter.--Approximately 1.8-1.9 cm.

Height.--Approximately 2.1-2.2 cm.

Color.--Light purplish pink (R.H.S. 62C) on the upper surface.

Eye color.--Pale yellow (R.H.S. 11D).

20 Variegation on petal.--Absent.

Color presentation.--Substantially even.

Color intensity.--Absent.

Overlapping of petals.--Separate.

Incision of petal.--Present.

25 Number of petals.--5.

Sepal.--Tubular in configuration.

Length of calyx.--Approximately 1.2-1.4 cm.

Anthocyanin pigmentation of calyx limb.--Absent.

Shape of pistil.--Two lobes.

30 Color of anther.--Yellowish green.

Diameter of peduncle.--Medium.

Length of peduncle.--Medium.

Number of flowers.--Many.

Flower bearing.--In a cluster.

35 Reproductive organs.--1 pistil and 4 stamens.

Pollen.--Brilliant greenish-yellow (R.H.S. 6C) in coloration.

Flower fragrance.--Absent.

Flowering time.--Early.

Flowering duration.--Long. When planted during March,
the plant commonly blossoms from April to November. A
5 bloom cluster commonly is present for approximately 2 to
3 weeks, and an individual bloom within the cluster
commonly lasts for approximately 7 to 10 days on the
plant. The plant is highly tolerant to heat, and exhibits
a high resistance to diseases, particularly powdery
10 mildew, and a high resistance to pests.

'Sunmaripi' was used as a comparison for this new
variety 'Sunmarisakura'. The botanical characteristics of
the 'Sunmaripi' are as follows when grown at when grown
15 at the Omi R&D Center of Suntory Flowers Ltd.

Plant:

Growth habit.--Decumbent.

Plant width.--Approximately 60 cm.

Plant height.--Approximately 20 cm.

20 Stem:

Diameter.--Approximately 2.5 mm.

Anthocyanin pigmentation.--Present.

Pubescence.--Normal.

Branching.--A moderate level of branching is present.

25 Subterranean stem.--Absent but when the stems contact
the surface of soil, the nodes take root in the ground
and the plant growth thereby spreads.

Length of internode.--Approximately 4.5 cm.

Leaf:

30 Phyllotaxis.--Opposite.

Shape.--Oblong-lanceolate.

Depth of incision.--Shallow.

Margin.--Serrate.

Length.--Approximately 3.5 cm.

35 Width.--Approximately 2.2 cm.

Leaf apex.--Mucronate.

Leaf base.--Petiolate.

Color.--Grayish olive green (R.H.S. 147A) on the upper surface.

Pubescence.--Sparse.

Petiole.--Present.

5 Thickness of petiole.--Approximately 1.0 mm.

Length of petiole.--Approximately 2.0 mm.

Flower:

Shape of cluster.--Obovate.

Length of cluster.--Approximately 3.2 cm.

10 Diameter of cluster.--Approximately 5.2 cm.

Facing direction.--Upward.

Outward curvature of petal.--Flat.

Diameter.--Approximately 1.7 cm.

Height.--Approximately 2.0 cm.

15 Color.--Deep purplish pink (R.H.S. 77B) on the upper surface.

Eye color.--Pale yellow (R.H.S. 11D).

Variegation on petal.--Absent.

Color presentation.--Substantially even.

20 Color intensity.--Absent.

Overlapping of petals.--Separate.

Incision of petal.--Present.

Number of petals.--5.

Sepal.--Tubular in configuration.

25 Length of calyx.--Approximately 1.0 cm.

Anthocyanin pigmentation of calyx limb.--Present.

Shape of pistil.--Two lobes.

Color of anther.--Yellowish green.

Diameter of peduncle.--Medium.

30 Length of peduncle.--Medium.

Number of flowers.--Many.

Flower bearing.--In a cluster.

Reproductive organs.--1 pistil and 4 stamens.

35 Pollen.--Brilliant greenish-yellow (R.H.S. 6C) in coloration.

Flower fragrance.--Absent.

Flowering time.--Early.

Flowering duration.--Long. When planted during March, the plant commonly blossoms from April to November. A bloom cluster commonly is present for approximately 2 to 3 weeks, and an individual bloom within the cluster commonly lasts for approximately 7 to 10 days on the plant. The plant is highly tolerant to heat, and exhibits a high resistance to diseases, particularly powdery mildew, and a high resistance to pests.

SUMMARY OF THE VARIETY

This new variety of *Verbena* plant has a broad spreading growth habit and long stems. The plant is well branched and abundantly forms flowers in a cluster. The blooms are present in profusion. The blooming period is April to November and flowering duration is long. The entire plant remains in bloom for an extended period of time. The flower size is large and the petal coloration of the flowers is light purplish pink. The plant is highly tolerant to heat, exhibits a high resistance to pests and diseases, particularly powdery mildew. The plant has very low self-fertility

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 depicts a side view of the 'Sunmarisakura' plant of the present invention.

FIG. 2 depicts a close-up view of the flowers of the 'Sunmarisakura' plant of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE VARIETY

The botanical characteristics of the new and distinct variety of *Verbena* plant, 'Sunmarisakura' are as follows when grown at the Omi R&D Center of Suntory Flowers Ltd.

Plant:

Growth habit.--Decumbent.

Plant width.--Approximately 65-71 cm.

Plant height.--Approximately 8-9 cm.

Stem:

5 Diameter.--Approximately 1.7-2.2 mm.

Anthocyanin pigmentation.--Absent.

Pubescence.--Normal.

Branching.--A moderate level of branching is present.

10 Subterranean stem.--Absent but when the stems contact
the surface of soil, the nodes take root in the ground
and the plant growth thereby spreads.

Length of internode.--Approximately 1.7-2.7 cm.

Leaf:

Phyllotaxis.--Opposite.

15 Shape.--Oblong-lanceolate.

Depth of incision.--Shallow.

Margin.--Serrate.

Length.--Approximately 2.9-3.6 cm.

Width.--Approximately 1.6-2.4 cm.

20 Leaf apex.--Mucronate.

Leaf base.--Petiolate.

Color.--Dark olive green (R.H.S. 141A) on the upper
surface.

Pubescence.--Sparse.

25 Petiole.--Present.

Thickness of petiole.--Approximately 1.0-1.2 mm.

Length of petiole.--Approximately 1.2-2.5 mm.

Flower:

Shape of cluster.--Obovate.

30 Length of cluster.--Approximately 2.3-4.4 cm.

Diameter of cluster.--Approximately 4.0-5.8 cm.

Facing direction.--Upward.

Outward curvature of petal.--Flat.

Diameter.--Approximately 1.8-1.9 cm.

35 Height.--Approximately 2.1-2.2 cm.

Color.--Light purplish pink (R.H.S. 62C) on the upper
surface.

- Eye color.--Pale yellow (R.H.S. 11D).
Eye size.--Small.
Variegation on petal.--Absent.
Color presentation.--Substantially even.
5 Color intensity.--Absent.
Overlapping of petals.--Separate.
Incision of petal.--Present.
Number of petals.--5.
Sepal.--Tubular in configuration.
10 Length of calyx.--Approximately 1.2-1.4 cm.
Anthocyanin pigmentation of calyx limb.--Absent.
Shape of pistil.--Two lobes.
Color of anther.--Yellowish green.
Diameter of peduncle.--Medium.
15 Length of peduncle.--Medium.
Number of flowers.--Many.
Flower bearing.--In a cluster.
Reproductive organs.--1 pistil and 4 stamens.
Pollen.--Brilliant greenish-yellow (R.H.S. 6C) in
20 coloration.
Flower fragrance.--Absent.
Flowering time.--Early.
Flowering duration.--Long. When planted during March,
the plant commonly blossoms from April to November. A
25 bloom cluster commonly is present for approximately 2 to
3 weeks, and an individual bloom within the cluster
commonly lasts for approximately 7 to 10 days on the
plant. The plant is highly tolerant to heat, and exhibits
a high resistance to diseases, particularly powdery
30 mildew, and a high resistance to pests.

This new variety of *Verbena* plant is most suitable
for flower bedding and potting, particularly in planters,
and is further excellent for use as a hanging basket.

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The plant of this new variety, 'Sunmarisakura', is
presently planted and maintained at the Omi R&D Center of

Suntory Flowers Ltd., 863-1 Aza-Iketani, Omori-cho,
Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan.